

How important is the vineyard?!



Is the vineyard more important than the winemaker in determining wine quality?

This is a question often discussed by wine producers and consumers.

The arguments used will vary reflecting the different experiences of those involved.

Australian consumers are more likely to know the names of winemakers than do the French.

Until recently the Australian winemakers would tend to be given the credit for distinguished wines, but in France it is the vineyard which is famous.

In Australia there is now increasing recognition of vineyard effects on wine quality.

However, both the skills of the winemaker and the ability of the vineyard to produce quality fruit are indis-

pensable to each other. Bordeaux has exported wine to Britain since the 12th Century and in 1855 a classification of vineyards was developed, based on prices paid for wine by the merchants.

Sixty-two red wines were classified into five classes or "growths" — this was a classification of the originating vineyards, not the winemakers.

This classification remains more or less unaltered today and has a dramatic effect on wine prices.

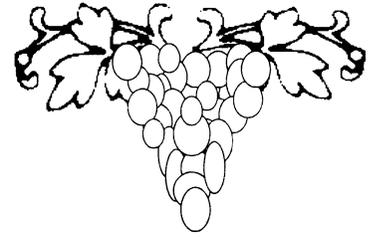
In Australia there are certain regions that produce better wines than do others from the same grape varieties.

For example, Clare makes quality riesling, Coonawarra grows quality cabernet, the Yarra Valley produces quality pinot noir and the Hunter grows great semillon, etc.

Chardonnay and shiraz seem to grow well almost anywhere, but shiraz with very evident regional styles.

This situation is reflected in wine show awards each year.

There is an accepted saying among producers that "you cannot make good



wine from poor fruit" and "great wine is made in the vineyard".

One way of putting the vineyard influences in perspective is to say that the role of the vineyard is to create style and quality, while that of the winemaker is to conserve the quality inherent in the grape.

Our Law Society members' special this month is two great wines from Rosemount. They are the Show Reserve Chardonnay from the Hunter Valley and the Show Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon from Coonawarra.

Both are excellent wines with the Chardonnay having been voted the top Australian Chardonnay by Cuisine magazine.

Our members' special price is \$19.95 per bottle.

PRACTICE DIRECTION 1/95: CRIMINAL LISTINGS (DARWIN)

I rescind Practice Direction No. 2 of 1990.

It is noted that the Director of Public Prosecutions has stated that instructions have been given to his staff that other than in exceptional circumstances an indictment will be prepared within one month of committal. The Director has also recently stated that prosecutors will look for the opportunity of giving notices to admit facts in the course of preparation for a trial (see ss379 and 380 Criminal Code). In order to endeavour to ensure speedy disposition of criminal matters in Darwin, whether by plea or by trial, the following procedures are to be adopted:

1. When a trial is to be set down as a back-up trial, whenever possible, it will be set down as any head trial in which any particular legal aid service also acts for the accused.

2. On arraignment day each month there will be, in addition to the current procedures, a call-over of all trials and pleas listed for that and the following month to confirm:

(a) that the accused will be represented;

(b) whether necessary interpreters have been arranged;

(c) whether there is any prospect of a plea being negotiated and whether original estimates as to duration of trial are still accurate;

(d) that an indictment has been filled and, in the case of plea, a statement of agreed facts prepared by the Director of Public Prosecutions served on the solicitors for the accused;

(e) whether there are any matters which the Director of Public Prosecutions and any accused have agreed to bring forward to fill vacancies which have arisen;

(f) whether a voir dire or any other preliminary application is likely, with a view to it being dealt with well before the date fixed for commencement of trial.

3. In managing the list the Court will allow up to three months from

the date of committal to enable the Director and the accused to explore the possibility of a not guilty plea being entered. That time has been fixed bearing in mind that it presently takes about six weeks for the transcript to become available from the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and allowing six weeks thereafter for consideration by both parties. The period will be monitored and adjustments may need to be made depending upon the time taken to produce transcript of committal proceedings in the ordinary course.

4. With a view to implementation of these procedures, the Director and all accused will review all current matters listed for trial by August 14, 1995. There will be pre-trial conferences on Wednesday, August 9 1995 with the Registrar in respect of all trials presently listed for hearing with a view to ascertaining the outcome of the review and a call-over before a Judge on August 11, 1995 with a view to making such orders as the abandoning of dates for trial and the fixing of fresh dates consequent upon the review and pre-trial conferences.

5. Except in appropriate cases, no dates will be allocated for the head trials or back-up trials in respect of committals between this date and the call-over in August. In the ordinary course, accused coming before this Court on an arraignment day for the first time will be bailed or remanded in custody until August 14, 1995.

"Accused" includes the legal representative of the accused.

The purpose of these Directions is to endeavour to bring about a greater degree of certainty in relation to the criminal list so that loss of Court time, brought about by abandonment of trial dates consequent upon altered decisions as to plea, will be avoided.

There are particular difficulties in Alice Springs in relation to the management of the criminal list which is receiving separate attention.

Chief Justice
June 22 1995